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When Government Employees Go on Strike.

We have asked and obtained permission to quote from a private letter written by President NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLES of Columbia University concerning a momentous question which he has made recently the subject of several public addresses:

The newspapers are advising us day by day of the situation in which the French Government finds itself through an earlier temporising with this question. France will either be a republic or a commune. with all that the word commune means, unless CLEMENCEAU can have public opinion at his back in the attitude which he is now taking, sound although belated.

" In my judgment the fundamental principle at issue is perfectly clear. Servants of the State in any capacity-military. naval or civil-are, in our Government, there by their own choice and not of necessity. Their sole obligation is to the State and its interests. There is no analogy between a servant or employee of the State and the State itself on the one hand, and the laborer and private or corporate capstalist on the other. The tendency of public service officials to organize for their own mutual benefit and improvement is well enough so far as it goes. The element of danger enters when these organizations ally or affiliate themselves with labor unions, begin to use labor union methods, and take the attitude of labor unions toward capital in their own attitude toward the State. In my judgment loyalty and treason ought to they do in the military and naval services. The door to get out is always open if one does not wish to serve the public on these terms. military and naval services. The happi- majority of the commission. ness and prosperity of a community might be more easily wrecked by the paralysis of ample, than by a mutiny on shipboard.

"Just so soon as any human being puts belongs or conceives himself to belong. above the interest of the State as a whole. at that moment he makes it impossible for himself to be a good citizen. It seems to me that what I said in my speech in Chicago is entirely true, namely, that a servant of the entire community cannot be permitted to affiliate or ally himself with the class interests of a part of the community. President ROOSEVELT'S attitude on all

this was at times very sound, but he wabbled a good deal in dealing with specific cases. In the celebrated Miller case at the Govern- may see fit to raise. ment Printing Office he laid down in his published letter what I conceive to be the sound dectrine in regard to this matter. It was then made plain to the printers that to leave their work under the pretence of striking was to resign, in effect, the places that if those places were vacated they would be filled in accordance with the provisions of the civil service act, and not by the reappointment of the old employees after parley and compromise.

"It may be that the exact line between s mutual benefit organization and a trade union is not easy to draw; but I think it must be drawn and insisted upon so far as Government employces are concerned, unless we are to permit communism to organize ftself under our flag and at the axpense of the taxpayers themselves.

" To me the situation which this problem presents is, beyond comparison, the most serious and the most far reaching which the modern democracies have to face. It will become more insistent and more difficult as Government activities multiply and as the number of civil service employees increases. Now is the time to settle the question or right principles once for all. So far as my observation goes, the events which have been taking place in France have produced a response from American opinion which is

sound to the core." We have yet to see any clearer exposition of a question which, as Dr. BUTLER esys, "will wreck every democratic Government in the world unless it is faced sturdily and bravely now, and settled on righteous lines." We print his remarks in this place because of their uncommon discernment, their vigor and their justice.

Another Disclosure From the Peer-

The Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN is still engaged in the congenial task of sesuring himself and everybody else that he is glad he was defeated by Mr. TAFT last November. We have always been ready to believe that he enjoyed the result, for it left him still the leader of the crazy quilt Democracy with all its subscription list and lecture platform reversions. He has joined the captains of industry and all his pockets yawn. Any one out for the stuff would rather have his newspaper and Chautaugua receipts than the beggarly income of a mere President.

Of course when Mr. BEVAN's appetite shall have been at last appeared—if that wreck might bring." As a matter of Tangier Sound in the middle of a marsh

to win. Say in 1916 or 1920. In the as Mr. TAFF did-meaning, if he meant anything at all, by the suffrages of the corporation men, the professional men, the laboring men and the enlightened voters generally. He didn't want it on those terms. He would never, never, &c. Rather keep on running the newspaper at the old rates, strictly in advance, and addressing gaping audiences at fifty cents a gape. Thus the winter palace on the Texas coast advances steadily to completion and other frugal enterprises mend their pace. Only a few more years of leadership at present prices, and he may take the nomination seriously.

alone does the Bryan superstition still survive-is quite another matter; but for the moment we may let this rest. The wonder of it all remains, however. How could eighteen hundred men have been collected in Columbus for a Bryan dinner? Are there that many Bryan votaries in the town and its vicinity, or were they attracted by the prospect of a dinner at one dollar a plate with the nevitable increment of fulsome oratory? We give it up. Enough for us to know that BRYAN then and there proclaimed his contempt for the Presidency if offered filling." Governor Magoon added that to him by the suffrages of the respectable elements of the electorate. He doesn't know it, but we do: the South is getting afford every assistance in its power. rich and correspondingly conservative.

Whether by that time the Southern

people will take him seriously-for there

The Building Cede. The objections filed against the pro-

posed new building code by the minorty of the commission which drafted it have been anticipated frequently in the newspapers. It has been alleged that the majority of the commission was intent on procuring monopolies for certain manufacturers influential in Tammany Hall, and the assertion has been made frequently that the changes in the regulations would injure RICHARD CROKER. The former leader of Tammany indeed is declared to have come to this country last fall primarily for the purpose of protecting his business interests, a mission in which, from present appearances, he seems to have failed. The injection of a dispute between Mr. CROKER and his rivals in business into the making of the code is highly unfortunate. It will divert attention from the more important matter at issue, the adequacy and propriety of the proposed code itself.

On this subject expert opinion only can be of value. The evidence on which such opinion is based is extremely techmean the same thing in the civil service that nical and none but a student of construction can hope to master it. There is one factor in the situation, however, that is not beyond the grasp of any citizen. Indeed, I am not sure that as civilization It is the opposition of the Fire Departprogresses loyalty and treason in the civil ment, expressed through the Commisservice will not become more important and sioner and the chief, to several provimore vital than loyalty and treason in the sions of the draft submitted by the

Chief CROKER'S kinship to RICHARD POWER and the fact that Commissioner its postal and telegraph services, for ex- HAYES was a district leader under the former chief of Tammany, will undoubt- of \$20,241.96, and according to the same | they abound in sharp curves bordered by edly be called to mind to indicate a bias report the club's debts to tradesmen and thick bushes and trees. The widening of the interest of a group or class to which he in his favor on their part. Yet this will others was \$38,940.76. Since then there the roads and the modification of the not overcome the popular confidence the subjects that come within their accounts payable. special duty. If they declare that the proposed code does not properly safeguard life and property the public generally will accept their statements at face value, and the officers who deliberately disregard their warnings should be prepared to answer convincingly the objections which they

The Dissent of Admiral Sigsbee.

Rear Admiral CHARLES D. SIGSBEE. who commanded the battleship Maine when she was blown up in Havana harwhich they held in the public service, and bor, is opposed to the raising of the wreck for two reasons: Because, to quote him. "she sequesters only a small area and is in precisely the position of least inconvenience to the commerce of the port"; and because he sustains the finding of the Board of Inquiry that the Maine was blown up from the outside In a lecture in Washington on Sunday night Admiral SIGSBEE said:

" The Maine would be found to have settled deep in the harbor mud or overspread a foot thick with marine growth. In clearing away the wreck the fifthy mud of the harbor bed would be exposed for weeks or months to the action of the tropical sun. Would the people of Havana submit to that Taking her as she is, she could be blown into man ageable parts and the parts removed, but that might subject us to the charge of trying to conceal something, whereas the whole world now virtually accepts the opinion of the court."

We venture to doubt whether the people of Havana would object to any necessary disturbance of the mud of the harbor to extricate, bring to the surface and dispose of the hull. We emphatically assert that it is an obstruction to navigation as it lies and unless removed will become a greater obstruction as time goes on. It is not a fact that "the whole world now virtually accepts the opinion of the court." On this last point we shall quote from a letter written by Rear Admiral S. B. LUCE to Representative SULZER on April 30, 1908:

"The prevailing opinion abroad seems to ! that the sinking of the ship was due to an interna explosion, and that belief is shared by many in this country, including some naval officers."

Admiral Lucz pronounced in favor of raising the Maine, holding that "it is a heated in winter, with a small but an duty we owe to ourselves as a nation, a accomplished bill of fare and with duty we owe to the navy and to the tennis courts in the yard. The Arcadian nautical world in general, that the true jail, in short, would be the legendary cause of the disaster should be deter- dungeon, so amiable and full of commined beyond a doubt." Rear Admiral fort that the threat of shutting out a F. E. CHADWICK, a member of the Board prisoner who outstays his leave breaks of Inquiry, is another naval officer of his heart. high rank who desires to see the wreck raised. He believes, like Admiral golden joys of Arcadia to flourish even SIGSBEE, that the court did not err on in a jailless spot. The nearest approach the evidence presented to it; but, unlike to perfect mundane simplicity with the Captain of the Maine, he would "wel- happiness thus far known has been come any new light which exposing the made in Somerset county, Maryland. Or

is possible—he may consider the polls fact the principal conclusion of the lies Jeangawken, the origin and meanas agencies of exaltation and really try court depended largely upon the testi- ing of whose ancient and lovely name mony of divers who inspected the bent are more than an Etruscan mystery meanwhile he is feathering his nest and and twisted plates in the harbor mud. Jeangawken may not have a jail, but it otherwise fortifying the door against In the findings of the Maine Board of makes up for this by having no post the wolf, and so he regales us with these Inquiry (U. S. S. Iowa, Key West, March office. The few hundred Jeangawken- Great Period which may perhaps interest alluring metaphors. He told the dollar 21, 1898) occurs, after the opinion that ites have more sensible things to do some of your readers. In a field about diners at Columbus, Ohio, that he would the second explosion heard was "caused than writing and reading. Lobsteria in two miles from the centre of the town have scorned to achieve the Presidency by the partial explosion of two or more Arcadia. Lobsteria with no blare and very aged man working with a hoe caught of the forward magazines of the Maine, this statement:

"The evidence bearing upon this, being principally obtained from divers, did not enable the court to form a definite conclusion as to the condition of the wreck, although it was established that the after part of the ship was practically intact and sank in that condition a very few minutes after the destruction of the forward

Admiral CHADWICE has sensibly said, and bravely because he contributed to the findings of the board: "We can afford to say we were mistaken; we cannot afford the imputation of fearing the truth." Every sailor of course knows tions of the gaping and neurotic world or ought to know that the sunken wreck is an obstruction to navigation. In his last report, made as Provisional Governor of Cuba, Mr. Magoon, who urged the raising of the derelict, said that the wreck lying "at the point where the channel entrance makes a sharp turn and expands into the harbor proper and occupying "a portion of the best anchorage" was a serious menace to navigation and moreover had caused a shoal so extensive that it interfered with the action of the aluggish tides and "therefore the entire harbor is rapidly the Cuban Government would like to see the wreck removed and would gladly This seems to dispose of Admiral Sigs-BEE's contention that the people of Havana would not submit to the incidental exposure of the mud of the harbor as the work progressed.

Cuba would acquiesce and cocoperate. The logic and comity of the case are against the brave old commander of the Maine; we should like to see him take his place beside his brothers in arms LUCE and CHADWICK.

The City Club.

The finances of the City Club seem to invite investigation of a non-partisan sort. "There are a number of bills that it would be very comfortable to have paid off," candidly writes President GEORGE MCANENY of the club to Fellow Member ELECTUS DARWIN LATCHFIELD, and he adds, "but as I have said that has been more or less a chronic state ever since I first came in touch with the club's finances."

Again, writing to Mr. LITCHFIELD, Mr. MCANENY speculates as to the outlook this year: "I hope that we shall do civic subscriptions. If we do we can and Washington. reduce our indebtedness accordingly."

What does President MCANENY mean by this? Does he mean that the subscriptions for civic work are to be diverted to pay the debts of the club? Does he mean that the 1,245 members of the club are to rely upon these outside subscriptions for the maintenance of their club home?

There was due the club on January , according to the treasurer's report, members in arrears \$10,714.20, a total are too narrow for automobile safety, and has been no material reduction in th that will be put in their judgment on amounts due from members or in the

It is therefore apparent that the club itself is in no shape to subscribe to the fund for civic work-that is, conducting investigations for political purposes. Are the outside subscribers to Mr. MCANENT'S fund for civic work eager to accept his statement, "I hope that we shall do much better this year in the matter of civic subscriptions. If we do we can reduce our indebtedness accordingly"?

The constitution of the club in describing its purposes declares: "The purpose of the City Club of New York shall be to aid in securing permanent good government for the city of New York through the election and the appointment of honest and able municipal officers and the establishment of a clear and stable system of laws relating to the city."

That is very well stated and, more over, the purposes of the club are eminently proper; but if the management has really made a botch of its own affairs would it not be a little ridiculous for Mr. MCANENY and his friends in the City Club to presume to tell our citizens what they should or should not do in the matter of municipal campaigns?

Arcadia Found.

We are used to the singularities and felicities of North Carolina, which in spite of its "bumper" crops of poets cannot lose some lingering trace of Eden. So this advertisement in the Rockingham Anglo-Saxon rather fulfils expectation than causes surprise:

"For rent, a jall. Nice clean rooms. Wate and sewerage connections complete. On account of the uselessness of the county jell, having no prisoners confined there, am willing to rent it out to a good tenant. Apply to the Sheriff. Note -For the first time in many years Richmond' county jall is empty."

This is regarded as a warm recommendation of prohibition, and the drys are happy on account of it, as if it were the chief duty and pleasure of man to keep out of jail. To our mind it denotes rather niggardliness or a low standard of living on the part of the county authorities. In Arcadia there certainly would be a jail, cool in summer, steam

Yet it is possible for most of the

glare and gilt and tips, the capital of my attention by his picturesque appearcorn pone, the harvest village of the seal ance. I stopped to watch him and then hose. Crabs, oysters, fish, water fowl-these are the food of Jeangawken. It tongs, fishes, shoots; the women are as skilled as the men in the use of its weapons and willingly and answered my questions. the pursuit of its business and pleasure. He turned out to be a small farmer, born Baltimore. Ploughing the sea and not came upon these reminiscences, which I noted down at the time: the land, it buys its fruit and vegetables. It lives by itself, never breaking its head about other people's business or weakening its nerves with the vain

beyond the marsh. All its travels are he was strong. by water. Its pure air is poisoned by understand him? no automobile. On Sunday it goes to "The Native-Well, there were a few

The Harlem here who risked his life to nothing under it points the way for those prominent citizens who will later hypothecate their assets to secure an indepen

the mountains to the seacoast.

transactions, palaverings and sensa-

church all day. A virtuous and relig-

Jeangawken is Arcadia moved from

ious commonwealth!

It is highly probable that Postmaster-General PRANE H. HITOECOCK will be made president of the [Washington Playgrounds] association.— Washington Size. Why HITCHCOCK? The place seems

made for JIMMY GARFIELD and he for it.

Now that Secretary MEYER has been reassured by Attorney-General Wicker-sham as regards at least one detail of the Navy Department over which he presides and has authority, is it too much to hope that he will in the future exercise his own judgment in other cases well within his read some of Henry Thoreau's writings rights? The Navy Department hasn't and I heard him deliver the first lecture he had a real head, at once intelligent and ever gave. patriotic, for several years. The hopes and prayers of many millions are that Mr. MEYER will rise to the surface of his obligations and fill the long felt want.

As we remember it the divorce decree between the local Republican organization and the Independence League forbade remarriage by either.

Direct primaries have been "vindicated" again. By the help of Democrats the feeblest Republican candidate was nominated for Mayor of Bookane. Naturally the Democrats named their best man, and they elected him with the assistance of disgusted Republicans, friends of beater Republican candidates for the nomination. An old game and simple; and one much better this year in the matter of that seems especially attractive in Oregon

> The so-called insurgents in the Senate are battling for a redemption of the party's promise -- Washington Star. Did you ever read the Republican platform of 1908?

If the automobilists succeed in their efforts to obtain the freedom of the roads around Bar Harbor, now closed to selfpropelled vehicles, they will also succeed n causing a general remodelling of th highways on the delectable island of from members (current) \$9,527.76 and Mount Desert. At present these roads deserving citizens of the island, and it might also eventually result in a reduction of the rates of carriage hire, which are now only a little less exclusive than the highways themselves.

> It is to be hoped that at the annual meet ing of the Brotherhood of Operative Potters to be held at Atlantic City in July the delegation from Trenton will succeed in putting through its proposed resolution prohibiting union potters from joining any military organization likely to be called out at any time to aid in suppressing strikes. The advantage of defining the potters' position in this way will be the information conveyed to the general public as to the kind of strikes these excel-

Is it mere irony of fate which supplies as the issue for the final battle between the legislative Old Guard and the militant Chief Executive-the personnel of a commission to care for the feeble minded females of Wayne county.

As the Liberal Government grows weaker the Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN. who was lately in a bad way, seems to gain strength and a more eager hold on

Senator HERNANDO D. MONEY of Mis sissippi, who supports the Finance Committee's proposal of a duty of 25 cents a ton on iron ore, plumes himself upon being about the only tariff for revenue Democrat in the Senate, but with reference to iron ore he told the perfect protectionists, like Mr. SUTHERLAND of Utah, and the protectionists in spots, like Mr. Bacon of

"This particular article is a revenue produce to some extent, and I don't see why we should no get the revenue." A naive confession of a Democrat with

one spot, but it would be no infringement of copyright if Mr. MONET's fellow Southerners were to give the same reason for kicking over the Denver platform.

A Porte Blean's Advice to His People To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Cable despatches from Porto Rico announced the other day that a new commission from one of her politics parties was on the way to the States to submit to our Government its side of the present trouble. What the Porte Ricans need just now—and this is the suggestion of a good friend—is to pour oil on troubled waters. They should turn a deaf ear to the unscrupulous agitators who instead of car to the unscriptions agitative was instead of rule are pushing them backward with pernicious activity. One commission on the heels of another will only lessen the chance of gaining the good will of the President and of the Congress of the United States. Let them as a people follow the President's advice and settle down to work. They should not try to fix the resp their differences on any of the local parties by bringing to Washington their blokerings and petty alousies. Now is the time for hard thinking discussing the tariff to spare time to listen to thei TROPILO GARBAN.

The Meanest Thing a Poet Ever Said. It was a great day yesterday, Perhaps you noticed it! The Giants did not lose a game And so their place rem The reason is, to wit, Because they did not play. NEW YORK, May 17. L. S. WATERHOUSE. AN ECHO OF THE OLD CONCORD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I was visiting Concord, Mass., some while ago and one day during a stroll in the neigh borhood came across a vestige of the Great Period which may perhaps interest succeeded in interrupting his labors for a chat, which he at first resented; but soon, on account perhaps of the warmth of the day, he leaned on his hoe more

"The Native-Mr. Emerson? Oh, yes remember him pretty well. He gave inety-one free lectures in Concord.

"The Tourist-Were they interesting? "The Native-Well, yes. He always had something new to say. That's where

"The Tourist-But wasn't it hard to

long words going around in this town those days. One woman from the country was at one of his lectures and wrote home saying how fine it was and gave a string of all the long words he'd used. There was Alcott, did you ever hear of him? save a floating peach basket hat with He was more sociable, more conversational than the others. He was always he'd go to meeting if he might answer the minister back. He wouldn't go unless pieces to have him talking back. He was never strong on the money side, but his daughter-I-ve heard she made fifteen or twenty thousand dollars off one of her tales. Hawthorne? Yes, I often seen him going for walks in the north woods with Uni Mr. Emerson and Thoreau. [Emerson was the only 'Mr.' in his recollections.] He liked keeping to himself, but he'd go for walks with the others-sometim No, I never read any of his tales. I've

The Tourist-Was it good?

"The Native-Oh, yes; he worked some wit into it. It was about the time he was living at Walden Pond. He said some one had asked him what he went to live there for, and he answered, 'Time will show.' Ha. ha!

"The Tourist-Did he speak well? "The Native-Oh yes, well enough. In his manner of lecturing I guess he was trying to imitate Mr. Emerson a good

"The Tourist-Thoreau knew all about the woods, didn't he? "The Native-Yes. Mr. Emerson said

he knew more than any man in the country. There was a hunter here in those days who made his living by hunting. I guess he knew almost as much about some birds as Thoreau did. Thoreau would have long talks with him in the woods, the year 1800 to the year 1908. and the hunter would tell him about some birds he had killed. This was the queer thing: the hunter wasn't ever sober when he had any money; but Thoreau wouldn't talk with him except when he was in his rational senses.

"The Tourist-Having all these learned difference. Did the people stop going purchase or annexation. to church through all these lectures?

"The Native-When Mr. Emerson gave up going to meeting, that made a difference to them. People didn't go after that as they used to in my young days. "The Tourist-Thoreau wouldn't pay

his taxes, would he? in nature, and so for that reason he didn't believe in law.

"The Tourist-He used to make himself everything he wanted? "The Native-Not everything. learned to make a lead pencil.

"The Tourist-Did he live by "The Native-I guess his mother

sisters helped him some." His general feeling toward the Great Period was neither admiration nor contempt. He surveyed it with an independent, judicial calm which might have pleased Thoreau himself. G.

NEW YORK, May 17.

The Passing of New York as a Grain Port. To the Editor of THE SUN-Sir: The article dealing with the needlessness of spending large sums of money upon a barge canal has been read with interest by mem and your remarks on the manner in which urged the importance of a barge canal in der to bring grain to New York just at the time that the said exchange is most anxious to sell their property had caused no little consternation among members. The Produce Exchange is a back num and the only importance it holds at the as an insurance fund and providing the opportunity and the space where her members can play checkers, smoke their pine of peace and swap stories about New York in the '40s. The sooner the edifice known as the Produce Exchange down and a creditable, clean, modern building is erected for business people the better, and no one I am sure will be gladder than one who regrets to sign himself a member of the Produce Exchange.

Wicked Information Wanted TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As to that Cuban Lottery established in a country lately under our guardianship and the and cries appertaining thereto: did any body ever hear of a lottery in the Panama Canal Zone? Or of those who profit L. D. NEW YORK, May 16.

The Useful "On." To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: Apropos of "Prepositions in the Irish Dialect of English" from the Forinightin Review, it may be of interest to state that in Cornwell, England, the peasant destring to know the place of birth of a ner "Where's he one on!" VIAGGIATORE.

The Bonnet of Fifty-One.

NEW YORK, May 17.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The bonnet of eighteen fifty one
And the bonnet of nineteen sine—
What would they say if they chanced to meet,
And which would I choose for mise?
Fashlons change and the shapes are old,
But the faces beneath the brim,
Ah, they are the same in the sweetheart flame
As they were in the days grown dim!

Under the bonnet of fifty one
The eyes that were twinkling then
Had the same dear look when the
o'errook o'ertook
The gleam in the hearts of men;
he old time ladies were ladies still,
With youth and the eyes of blue,
and men wrote sonnets so old time bot
As men now write to the new!

One of the bonnets of fifty-one—

Jaw it the other day.

With its faded bows and its old primrose
And the little slik ribbons of gray;
Under the attic rafters hung.

Through the shadows it saw it gleam
And out of the shadows are danced and sung
The lass of my boyhood dream!

SAVING CITY MONEY.

The Taxpayers Protective Union Would

Like a Little Credit. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Just rior to March 1 the Commissioner of Street leaning advertised in the City Record for ids for furnishing that department with 30,000 feet of new rubber hose, while at the same time in the same publication the Fire Department was advertising for public auction some 30,000 feet of old rubber

The Taxpayers Protective Union, which maintains a bureau to keep a close watch on city expenditures, at once protested in writing to the Mayor, the Comptroller, the Fire Commissioner, the President of the Board of Aldermen and to each member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment oysters in the season to the boats from years of age. After some overtures we against the purchase of new hose for the Baltimore. Ploughing the sea and not loame upon these reminiscences, which Street Cleaning Department and coated the common sense plan of using old of the Government is shown by the follow-hose from the Fire Department. Our pro-ing facts: that Presidential electors are hose from the Fire Department. Our pro-test had its effect, but the credit for the change is gracefully claimed at this late day by Comptroller Metz.

The following quotations from some of our correspondence on the subject will tion. In my letter of March 6 to the officials above mentioned, after reviewing all the facts, I said:

This shows clearly a want of cooperation be tween the various city departments, a condition which we believe should be remedied at once Proper cooperation between departments would result in saving many thousands of dollars to the city annually. The Pire Department should be instructed to reserve old hose for the use of the Street Cleaning and other departments instead of auctioning it off at ridiculous prices.

The instructions given by Comptrolle tional than the others. He was always Mets "in the early part of last summer ready for a talk with any man. He said seem to have failed in reaching their destiof Manhattan in his reply to my letter com he might speak too; but, you see, it mended the Taxpayers Protective Union would have balked the minister all to for the suggestion and in closing his letter said:

Your letter has been forwarded to the Co troller with the suggestion that such direction be given the heads of departments as will make this

In justice to the Taxpayers Protective Union, an organization of 8,000 members, we ask that credit be rightfully awarded. JOHN E. CONNELLY, NEW YORK, May 17.

THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS. Observation With Extensive View Surveys Mankind.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Seven hundred pages of solid figures, with scarcely a line of "reading matter," are needed by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, O. P. Austin, chief, to portray the growth and resources of this great country of ours, in its annual volume known as the "Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1908." It tells of area and population; occupations, labor and wages; educational facilities, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, mining and manufacturing industries, exports and imports, money, banking and insurance; army, navy and pensions; wealth and public finance; in short, almost anything and everything which a patriotic American she know regarding his country to realize better the value, the world leading value, of American citizenship. It is a complete statistical record of the progress of the United States in area, population, wealth, industries, production and commerce, from

The abstract interestingly tells us, for instance, that our total continental area, including Alaska, is about equal to that of Europe. Of the eighty-eight millions of people occupying this area practically one-third are found in the thirteen original States, another third in the territory ceded to the common Union by those States, and men in the town must have made a great the remaining third in the area added by

It also tells us that our negro population 1900, while by percentage of the whole population it fell from 18.88 per cent. in 1800 to 11.59 per cent. in 1900.

In spite of the large share of the territory of the United States which has come under cultivation or individual ownership, the "The Native-No, but some one else land areas still unreserved and unappropaid them for him. They didn't keep priated in 1908 total 754,895,000 acres, of which 368,022,000 scree are in Alaska, 61,177 -000 in Nevada, 46,532,000 in Montana. 44,778,-000 in New Mexico and 42,769,000 in Arizona. Swamp and overflow lands aggregate 75,000,000 acres, of which 18,500,000 are in Florida, 9,500,000 in Louisiana, 6,000,000 in

Mississippi and 5,750,000 in Arvansas. The developed water power of the coun-

ware earners.
Turning to the aggregate wealth of the United States the figures are staggering—from \$7,000,000,000 in 1850 to \$30,000,000,000 in 1870, \$65,000,000,000 in 1890, \$104,000,000,000 in 1904, as shown by census reports, and, as estimated by posted statisticians, \$120,000,000,000 in 1905. All this is only part
of the story, the wonderful story, of the
progress and resources of this great country
of ours.

WALTER J. BALLAND.
LOS ANGELES, May 12.

Phillips Brooks Upon the Personal Christ. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As I read in THE SUN of May 16 the letters entitled "Christian Dogma" and "Is Christ God?" I recalled an extract from that wonderful sermon of Phillips Brooks "The Christ in Whom Christians Believe." These are the words:
"Laying saide all the theological conceptions of

Laying aside an the theological conceptions of Jesus Christ, laying aside everything that attaches to the complications and mysteries in which His nature has been involved in men's dreams of Him, laying aside everything which the churches are holding as the special doctrine of their especial creed—to go back to the very beginning and see creed—to go back to the very beginning and see if we can understand anything of what it is—this personal Christ, who lives here in the world and manifests the power of God and opens the possibility of every msn."

C. S. MENDIL of every man."

OUR GOVERNMENTS

Proposed Changes That Threaten the Power of the Small States. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is

not surprising, in view of the present drift toward centralisation and the enthusiasm for popular election of Benators, direct primaries and the like, that some men are beginning to champion the election of President by direct popular vote; but the adntentionally disregard the fact that this is a Government of confederated States, not democracy. The State Governments have to do primarily with the people; the Federal authority, executive no less than legislative, with matters of national pelicy which only indirectly concern the people.
Mr. Taft is President not of the people of the United States but of the United States a distinction with a difference. That the same view was entertained by the framer chosen as the State Legislature directs that each State has electors corresponding to its Senators; that if there is a failure to elect the Vice-President is chosen by the Senate, which represents the States rather than the people, and similarly the President is chosen by the House of Representatives acting as representatives of the States each State voting in a unit and each having one vote. That this is still a fundaments characteristic of our Government is shown by the act of 1887 making each State the final judge of its own elections, and by the failure of the so-called "Force bill" of 1890 which attempted to secure Federal contro

of the election The proposal then is a vital encroach. ment upon State rights. It was a first principle of the fathers that the unity of States rests on the equality of rights and privileges of its members; and the Constitution was accepted only when they be-came convinced that the individuality and autonomy of the States would not be sacrificed. In accordance with this principle they created the House to represent the people proportionally and the Senate to represent the States equally. In choosing the Pederal Executive each State was to

ple they orested the House to represent the States equally. In choosing the Pederal Executive each State was to have a weight corresponding to the number of its Senators and Representatives.

Now the application, To-day Delaware (like five other States) has one Representative, two Senators and three electoral votes. New York has thirty-nine electoral votes. New York, were the President is therefore one-thirteenth that of New York. Were the President elected by direct popular vote her influence would be one-fortieth, Montana's one-eightleth and Nevada's one one hundred and seventy-third that of New York. Would these small States be willing to give up all but an utterly insignificant share in choosing the Executive of the confederacy of which they are members? Especially when they are confronted with matters that directly concern the States, a Federal incorporation law for example.

Nor is this danger confined to the States that have been mentioned. In 1810 Vermont and New Hampshire had each six Representatives, to-day they have two; Maine had seven, to-day they have two; Maine had seven, to-day four. So with other New England States and many in the South. While slowly increasing in population the President; and the process must continua. The House of Representatives cannot indefinitely increase—the population will. Eventually the smaller States like Vermont and New Hampshire as well as the Rocky Mountain States that cannot support a large population will have one Representative at the present time. They are now weak this proposal if adopted would make then yet weaker. These smaller States cannot permit the densely population of States and dictate their President.

A corollary to this destruction of States to thous usurp their rights and dictate their President.

A corollary to this destruction of State statute; that he could find he was debarred from voting in Connecticut because he could

graphical expressions rather than political divisions.

It may be wise to change the present method of electing the President along the lines originally set forth by Mr. Buckalew in the North American Review of 1870. This would do away with the dummy electors but retain the votes to be divided proportionately to the popular vote cast in the State. Such a plan would encourage the minority in the State, make every vote of equal weight, kill "general apathy" in States like Mississippi and Vermont one for all, and by taking the stress from the "crucial States" tend to mitigate corruption. This plan would combine the good features of both systems, but, unlike a general plebiscite, would not take from the individual States their just rights in electing their Executive, ner, by necessary intendment, deprive them of control of the suffrage.

S. B. PETTENGILL, Jr. YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, Cons., May 16.

Those shameless ones, who tremble at the thought of taking an active part in the defence of their homes. For a few years they are are. While peace lasts they may employ their leistry by crowding to see men play cricket or football if war comes they will be able to huddle under a white fing to see men die.

Nothing is to be gained by talking. Dreaming and gabbling won't do.
SIEGMUND HUBERT.
ANSONIA. COND., May 16.

The Moral Mocking Bird. From the Formishdy Review.

The celebrated footnote: "The Mock Bird is properly a native of America, but is introduced to the celebrated formish and the cel

here (i. e. in England) for the sake of the moral, omes from Mrs. Sarah Trimmer's "History of he Robins. Quiet to Quick Bosoms. Napoleon was sojourning at St. Helena.
"This only man at the summer resort business
terrible." he decided.

Thus another legend was busted. Nothing Doing.

Knicker-If wishes were hor Bocker-What would be the use if you couldn't